

The Community-Based Forest Management Agreement of Maribojoc, Bohol, Philippines

Presented at: A Private Sector Approach – Conservation Agreements in support of Marine Protection



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Abstract

Fishponds and other coastal developments have taken a heavy toll on mangroves in the Philippines. Mangrove forests remaining along the Philippine coastline are of lower quality than those found in the early century and cover less than one-third of the original area. Only 5% of the existing mangroves are primary growth. Three protection and management strategies for mangroves exist in the Philippines: 1) Assignment of user and property rights; 2) Regulatory techniques; and 3) Non-regulatory techniques.

This case study compares strategies and focus on the assignment of user and property rights as shown below:

| Strategy | Focus | Regulatory | Non-regulatory |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Assignment of user and property rights | Regulatory | Non-regulatory | Regulatory |
| Regulatory techniques | Regulatory | Regulatory | Regulatory |
| Non-regulatory techniques | Non-regulatory | Non-regulatory | Non-regulatory |

Matrix of private tools used in the Philippines in the conservation of mangroves and marine resources



Children also use the river for swimming at high tide



Mid portion of the board walk showing the inner portion of the mangrove forest managed by the people's organization.

Conclusion

The tenure arrangement significantly contributed to the conservation, protection and rehabilitation of considerable mangrove areas in the region.



Established Mangrove Plantations of CBFMA Holders in Bohol.

Community-Based Forest Management Agreement (CBFMA)

A production-sharing agreement entered into and between an organized community and the government to develop, utilize, manage and conserve specific portion of forestland consistent with the principles of sustainable development and pursuant to an approved community Resource Management framework Plan (CRMP) which defines the terms and procedures for access, use and protection of natural resources within CBFMA area.

CBFMA empowers communities to enter into agreement with the private sectors and with any units in government for appropriate development and management projects in the multiple use zones of the mangrove areas.

THE CBFMA OF MARIBOJOC, BOHOL, PHILIPPINES

The legal basis for the CBFMA is the Department Administrative Order 96-29, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and other pertinent policies, rules and regulations of the government of the Philippines.

The additional benefits of the CBFMA holders include exemption from paying rent for use of the area and forest charges for timber and non-timber products harvested from plantations, to be consulted on all government projects to be implemented in the area, preferential access by the DENR to available assistance, and receive all income and proceeds from the use of forest resources within the area.



Maribojoc, Bohol



Signage of Community-Based Mangrove Ecotourism Project.

The CBFMA application process involves formation of people's organization if one is not in existence; registering interest to apply for CBFMA; identification of the planned CBFMA area; upon CBFMA approval develop a Community Resource Management Framework Plan, Annual Work Plan and Resource Use Plan

To date, there are 62 CBFMAs awarded to POs in Central Visayas, Philippines covering an area of 5,500 hectares of mangroves.



An organizational and orientation meeting with the mangrove dependent community.



Portion of the mangrove forest designated as strict protection zone because of frequent siting of birds and other fauna.



The tenure arrangement have also pave the way to non-extractive economic advantage such as ecotourism.



Acknowledgement

Acknowledgement is due to the DENR 7 Gender and Development Focal Point System for the photos and ERDS 7 for the map.